Characterization of the Highest-Priority Geological CO₂ Storage Sites and Formations in Wyoming



Ronald C. Surdam

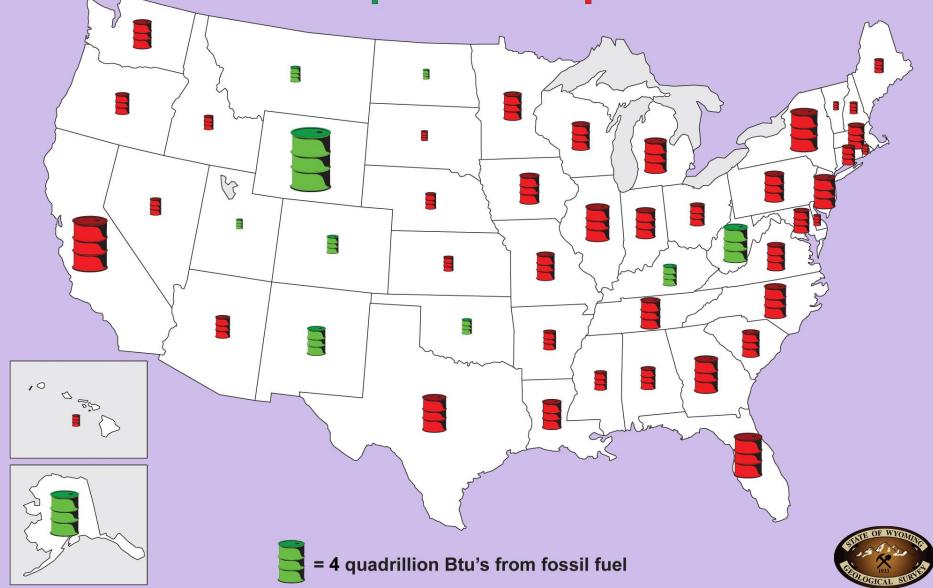
Director, Carbon Management Institute







Net Domestic Energy Export vs. Import



U.S. Energy Imports 2006

Rank	Country or State of Origin	Crude Oil		Natural Gas		Coal		Total
		Production Million Bbl/year	Quadrillion Btu	Production Trillion Cubic ft/year	Btu	Production million tons/year	Quadrillion Btu	Quadrillion Btu
1	Wyoming	52.93	0.28	1.75	1.77	446.74	7.96	10.01
2	Canada	648.97	3.41	3.59	3.63	1.49	0.04	7.08
3	West Virginia	1.83	0.01	0.22	0.22	152.37	3.91	4.14
4	Mexico	575.61	3.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	3.04
5	Saudi Arabia	519.40	2.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.73
6	Venezuela	416.83	2.19	0.00	0.00	3.07	0.08	2.27
7	Nigeria	378.51	1.99	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	2.05
8	Alaska	270.47	1.42	0.42	0.43	0.00	0.00	1.85
9	Iraq	201.85	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.06
10	Angola	187.25	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98
	Total	3,253.61	17.08	6.05	6.12	603.67	11.99	35.19

Note: Total may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

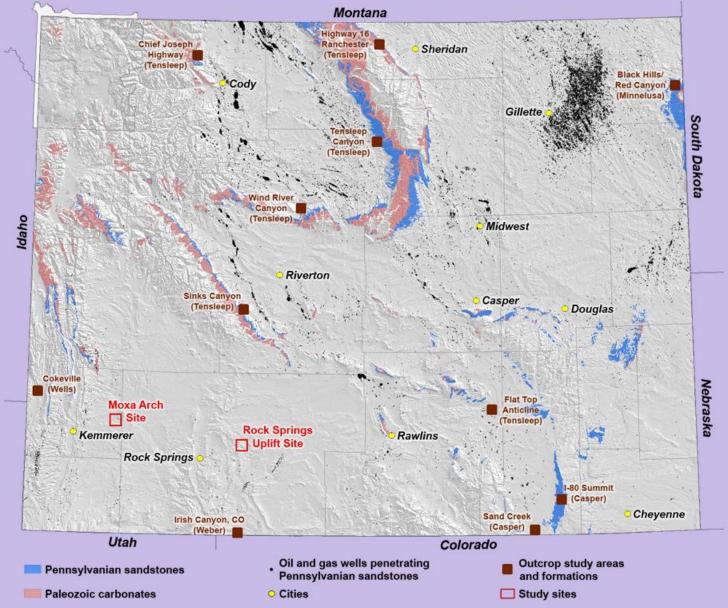
Coal imports include coal to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Monthly Report IM 145.

EIA, U.S. Natural Gas Imports by Country EIA, U.S. Crude oil Net Imports by Country

EIA, Gross Heat Content of Coal Production, Most Recent Annual Estimates, 1980-2006

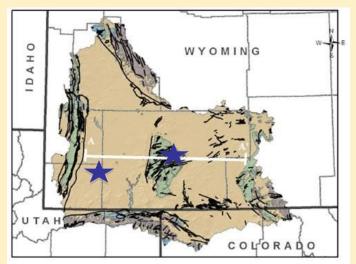




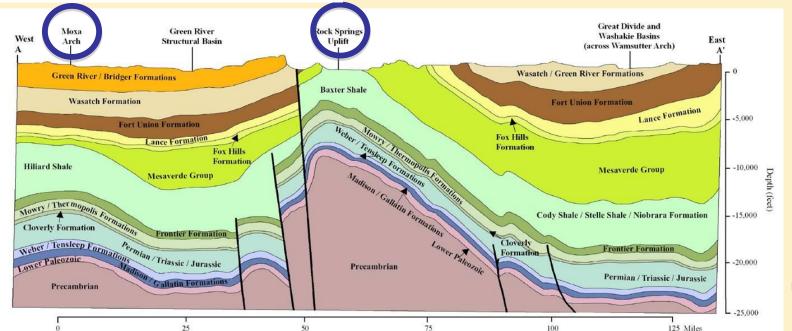
Modified from Surdam, R.C., Jiao, Z., Stauffer, P., & Miller, T., 2009, An integrated strategy for carbon management combining geological CO_2 sequestration, displaced fluid production, and water treatment: Wyoming State Geological Survey Challenges in Geologic Resource Development No. 8, 25 p.



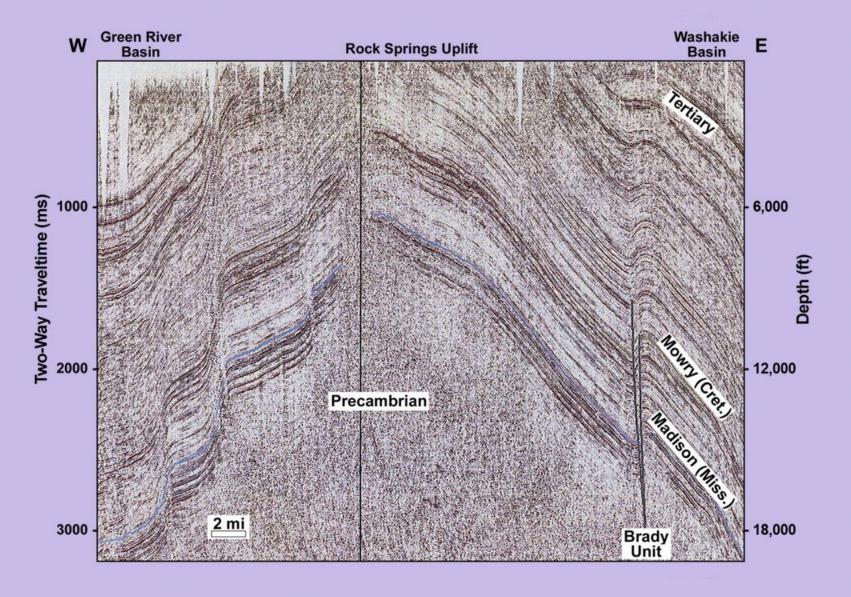
Carbon Capture Potential In Southwest Wyoming



WSGS, UW, State, and DOEfunded research identified two high-capacity sites in southwest Wyoming: Rock Springs Uplift & Moxa Arch

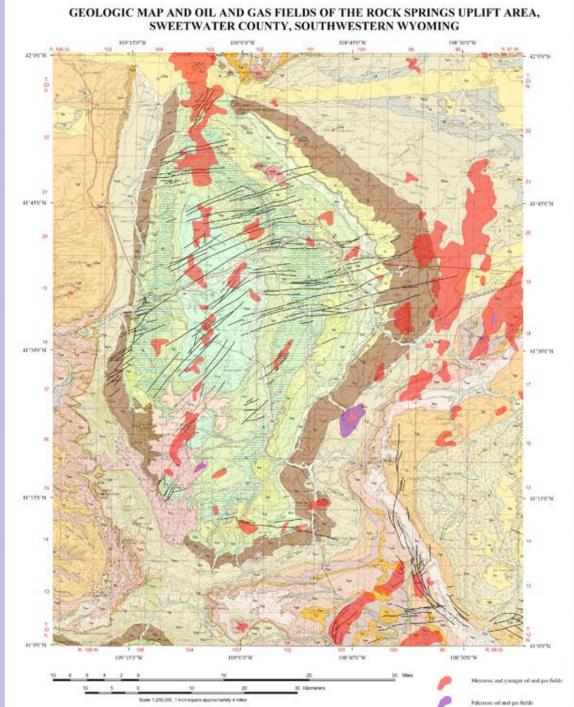






Surdam, R.C. & Jiao, Z., 2007, The Rock Springs Uplift: An outstanding geological CO_2 sequestration site in southwest Wyoming: Wyoming State Geological Survey Challenges in Geologic Resource Development No. 2, 31 p.

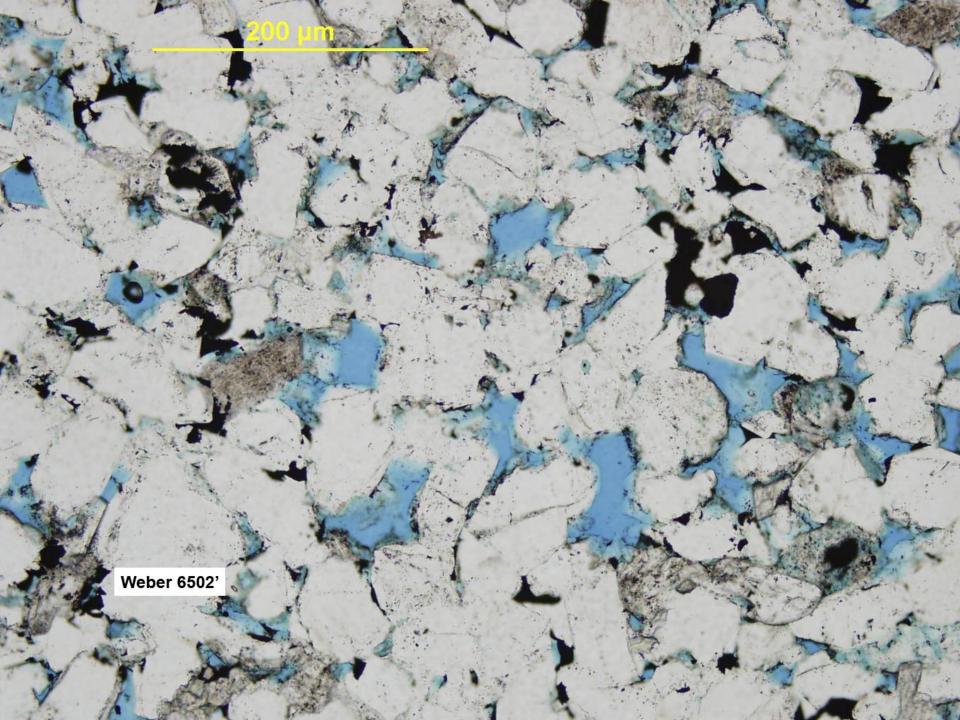


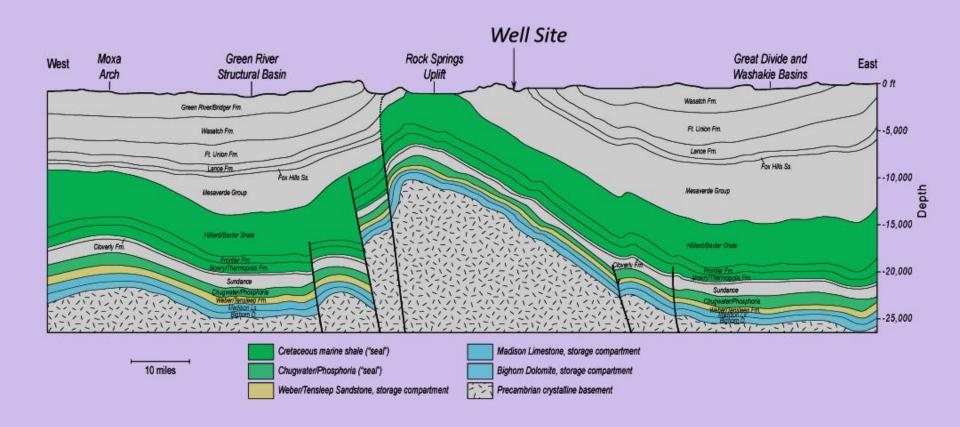


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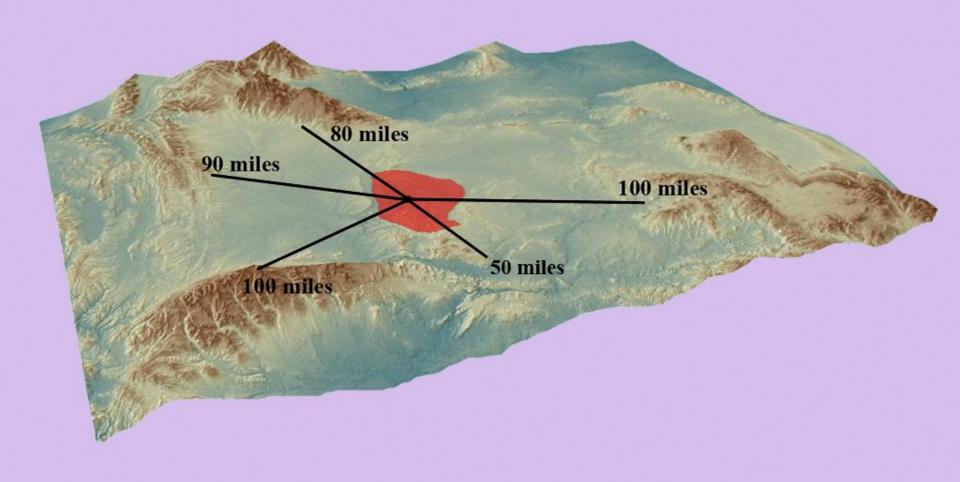




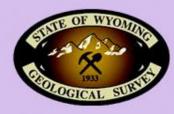








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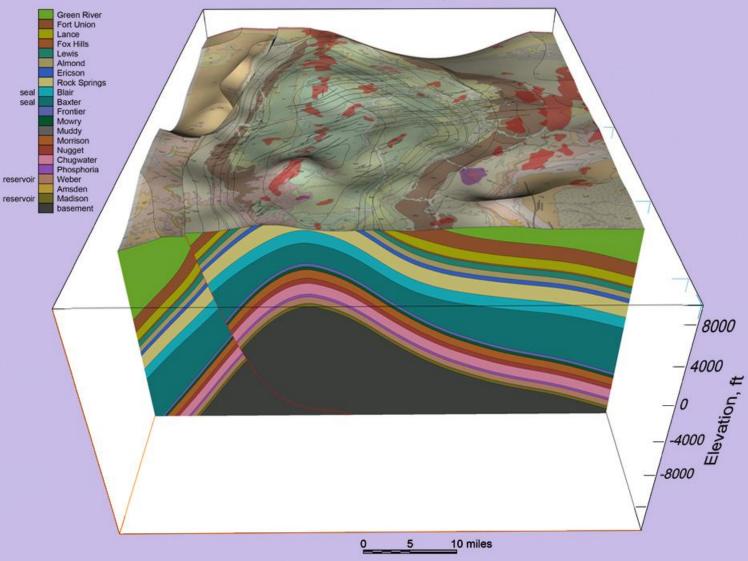


Rock Springs Uplift: an outstanding geological CO₂ sequestration site in southwestern Wyoming

- Thick saline aquifer sequence overlain by thick sealing lithologies.
- Doubly-plunging anticline characterized by more than 10,000 ft of closed structural relief.
- Huge area (50 x 35 mile).
- Required reservoir conditions; including, but not limited to fluid chemistry, porosity (pore space), fluid-flow characteristics, temperature and pressure (i.e., regional burial history).

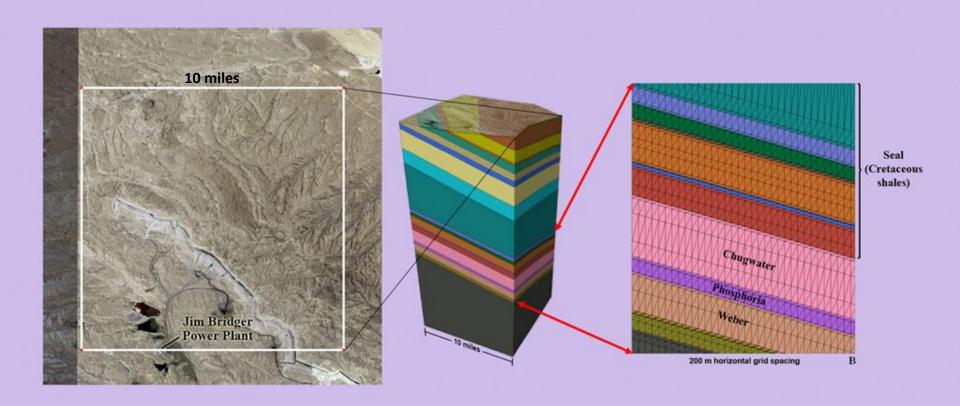


Rock Springs Uplift, Wyoming

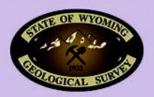


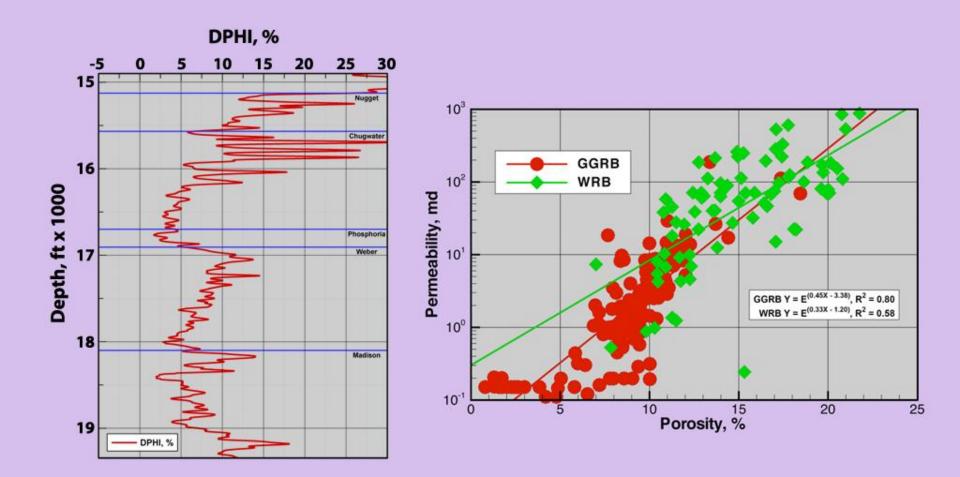
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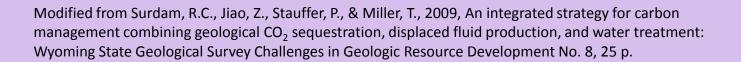




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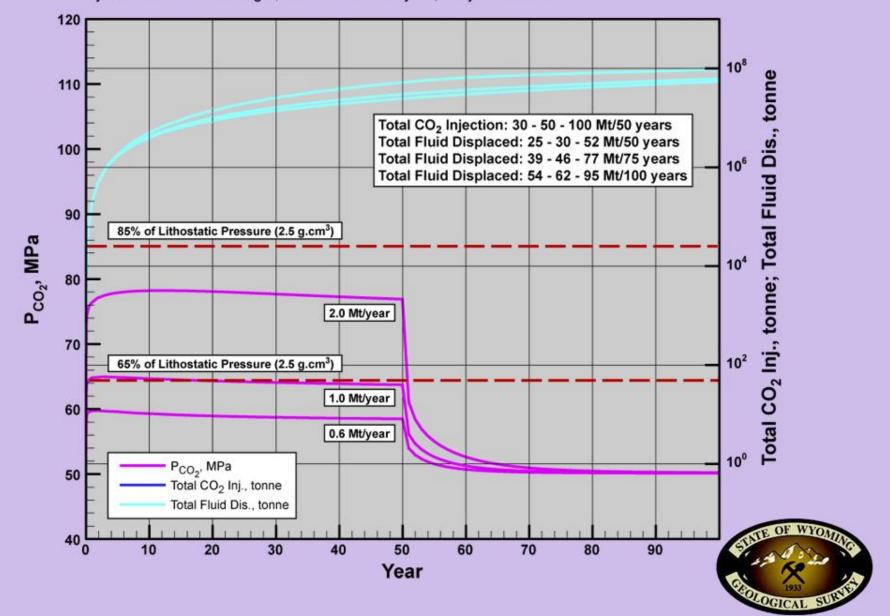




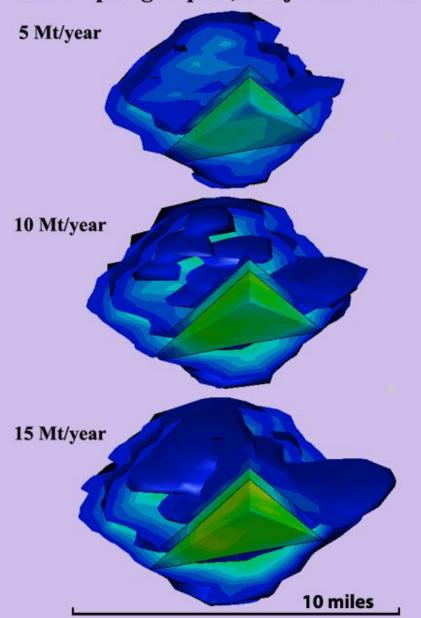


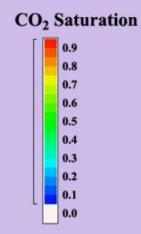


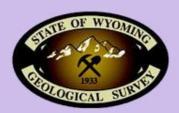
CO₂ Injection Simulation Results from FEHM for the Weber Sandstone, Rock Springs Uplift Injection Interval 700 ft, Porosity 10%, Relative Permeability 1 md, Injection Rate 10.57x3 kg/s, 0.6 - 1.0 - 2.0 Mt/year, 1 Injection Well



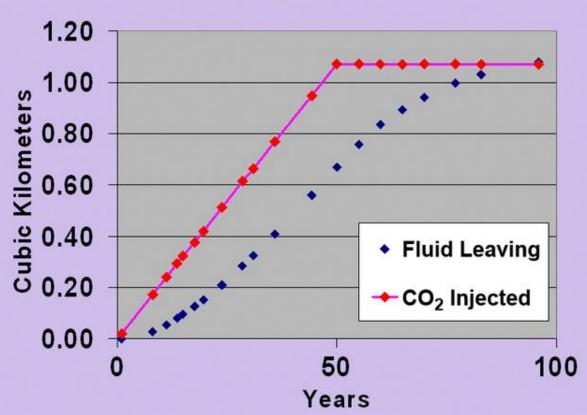
Geological CO₂ Sequestration, after 50 Years Injection, Weber Sandstone Rock Springs Uplift, 9 Injection Wells







Injected CO₂ versus fluid leaving the domain



Scale:

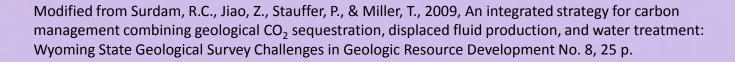
750 Mt of CO2 displaces ~1 cubic kilometer.

1 cubic kilometer of displaced fluids is ~6,000,000,000 barrels

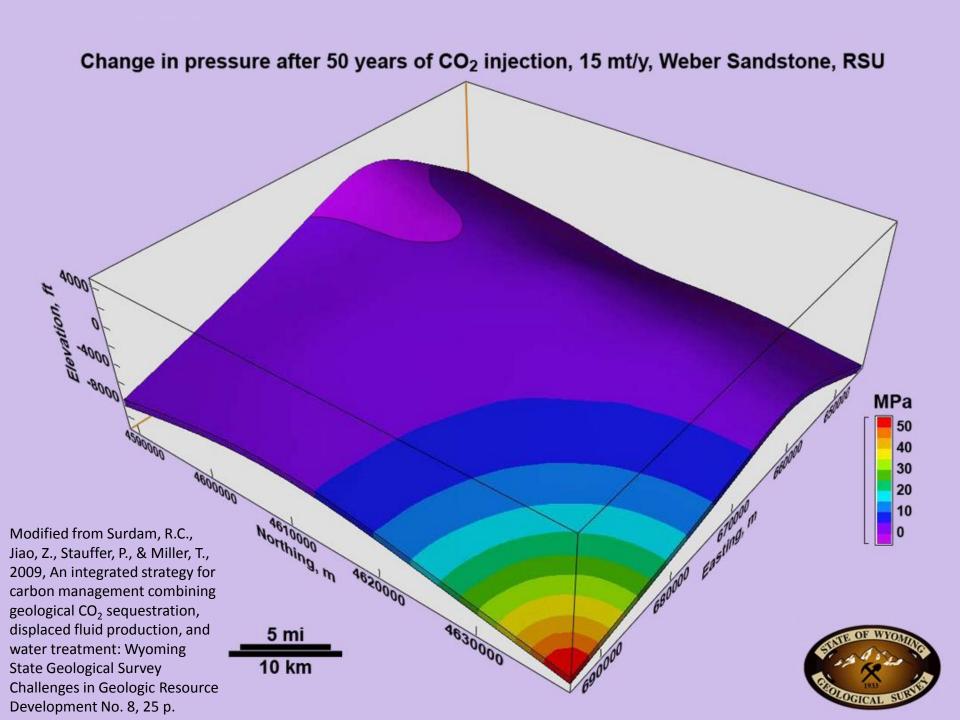
Salt Creek Oil production (the largest oil field in Wyoming) is ~680,000,000 barrels (120 yrs)

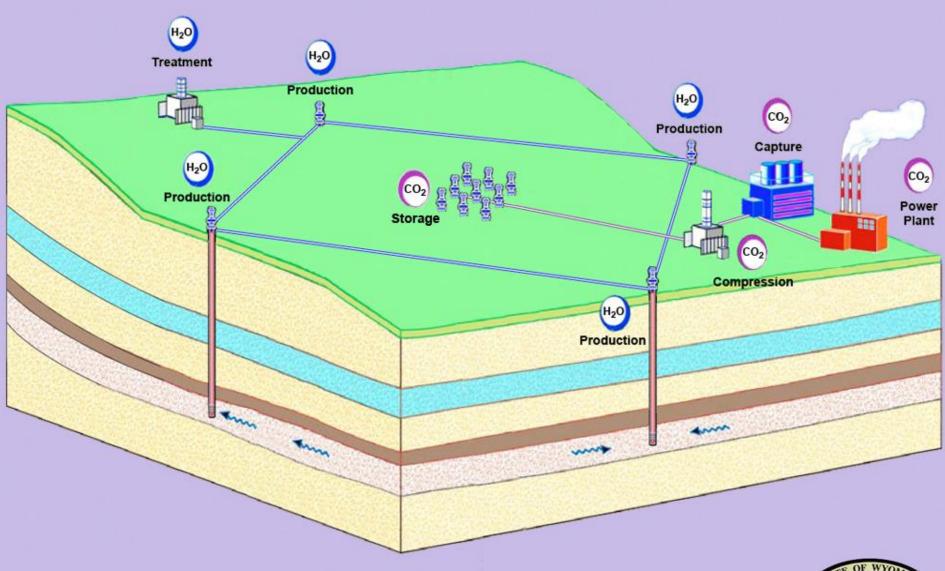
1 cubic kilometer of water is ~710,000 acre-feet.

Boysen Reservoir is 792,000 acre-feet.



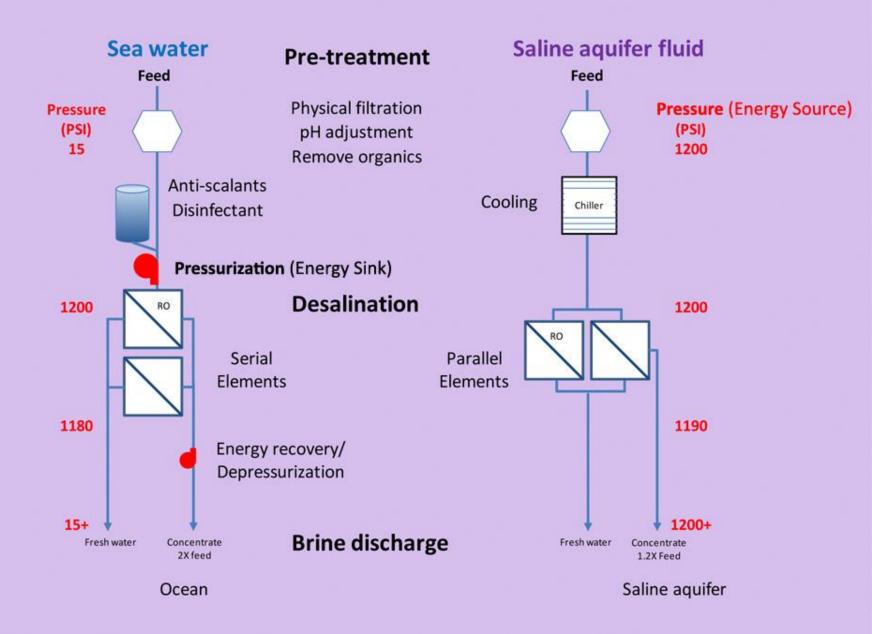






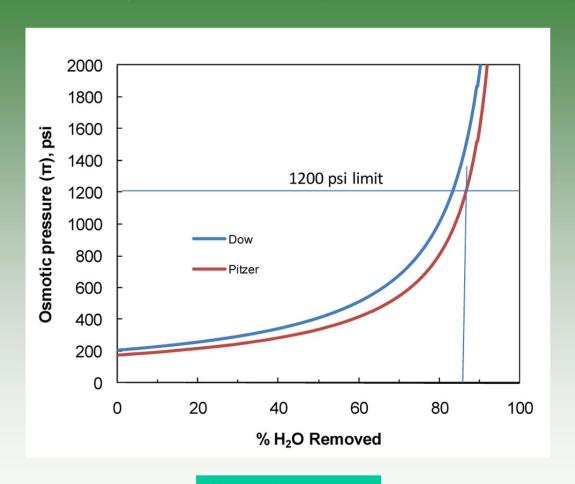
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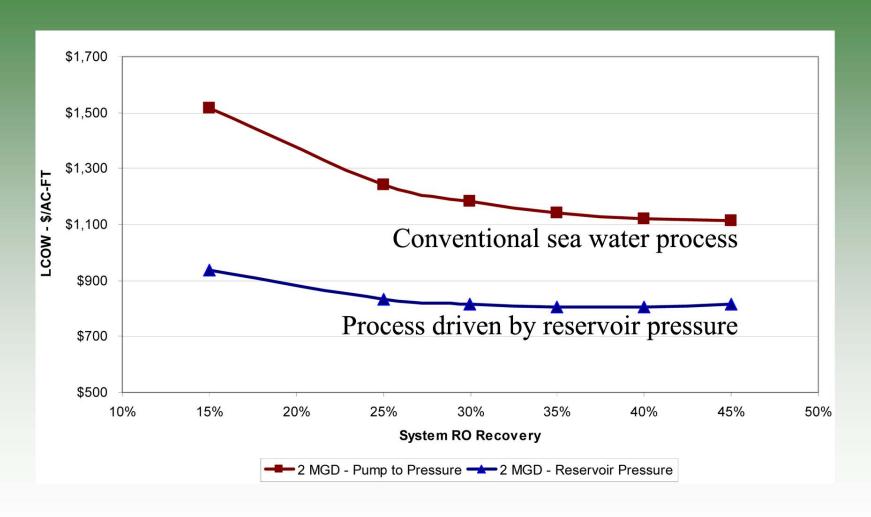
modified from Wolery, T.J., Aines, R.D., Hao, Y., Bourcier, W., Wolfe, T., and Haussman, C., 2009

Osmotic pressure at 50°C (WY Sublette Co. #2) (Na-Cl-SO₄ brine, Tensleep/Weber Formation)



Osmotic pressure

Water costs are relatively low when process energy is supplied by reservoir pressure



Conclusions

- The most critical problem with commercial scale geological CO₂ sequestration is management of displaced fluids. To solve this problem, the Wyoming State Geological Survey proposes a strategy that includes integration of fluid production/water treatment with injection of CO₂.
- The greatest uncertainty in numerically simulating CO₂ sequestration processes is characterizing geological heterogeneity in 3 dimensions.

The WY-CUSP Partnership

CMI – WSGS – SER is conducting one of the DOE sequestration characterization studies on the Rock Springs Uplift, Wyoming.

The Primary Objectives of this study are

- 1) to significantly reduce the numerical simulation uncertainty by documenting the geological heterogeneity in 3-D, and
- 2) to design the water treatment facility required to solve the displacement fluid problem.
- 3) to prepare a sub-commercial CO₂ storage demonstration on the Rock Springs Uplift (i.e., Phase II of WY-CUSP).







Basic elements of the Rock Springs Uplift characterization project are the acquisition of a 3D seismic survey and a stratigraphic test at the selected geological CO₂ sequestration site.







WY-CUSP Emphasis (Phase I)

- Data retrieval, evaluation and interpretation.
- Description of the 3-D geological heterogeneity characterizing the RSU site.
- Substantial uncertainty reduction of RSU numerical simulations (i.e., risk reduction).
- Design of custom fluid treatment technology for RSU Weber/Madison brines.
- Preparation of sub-commercial CO₂ storage demonstration (i.e., 1+ Mt CO₂/yr).





